



P O R T   O F   S U N D E R L A N D.

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
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PRESENTED: TO: THE

P O R T   H E A L T H   A U T H O R I T Y

BY

A. STUART HEBBLETHWAITE,  
M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Port and Borough of Sunderland.

S U N D E R L A N D   P O R T   H E A L T H   A U T H O R I T Y.

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C O M M I T T E E:

Councillor J. Young, J.P., Chairman.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
(Councillor Myers Wayman, O.B.E., J.P.).

Councillor G. Potts, Vice-Chairman.

Alderman E.E. Bell (Mrs.	Councillor J.A. McConnell.
M.B.E., J.P.	J.P.
"    W.P. Chalk,	"    R. Miller.
"    J. Cohen, J.P.	"    W. Miller.
"    E.W. Ditchburn.	"    G.H. Morgan.
"    E. Embleton, J.P.	"    G.B. Scott.
"    J.R. Storey.	"    J.A. Shaw.
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(Miss).	"    A.H. Suddick J.P.,
"    M.A. Crow, (Mrs).	"    H.W. Taylor.
"    H. Emtwistle.	"    F. Wilson, O.B.E.,
"    A.T. Graham.	J.P.
"    W. Harvey.	"    D. Young.

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O F F I C E R S.

CLERK:

G.S. McIntire, O.B.E., B.A., LL.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

A. Stuart Hebblethwaite, M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Eustace Thorp, O.B.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR:

E. Cooper, Cert. R.S.I.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR

C. Pickering, Cert. R.S.I.

OFFICIAL RAT CATCHER

C. R. Hicks, (Temporary).

Meetings:-Monthly, on the Wednesday in the second week preceding that in which the Council meets, at 2-45p.m.

Offices of Medical Officer of Health ) Athenaeum Buildings,  
and Port Health Inspector         ) 27, Fawcett Street.

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Office Telephone No. : Sunderland 56206.

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SUNDERLAND  
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1941.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND ACTING AS THE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY OF THE PORT OF SUNDERLAND.

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This Report is in an abbreviated form compared with those of previous years, in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health as outlined in their Circular No. 1937; permanent arrangements which have been fully presented in previous Annual Reports have been omitted if they have remained unaltered, and certain tables have been either left out altogether or curtailed. Tables dealing with the number of ships arriving and departing are also excluded.

During the year 5 cases of infectious disease, viz., Pneumonia 1, Tuberculosis 1, Measles 1, Mumps 1, and Diphtheria 1, were found to exist on vessels entering the Port. No case of infectious disease spread from the Port to the Borough.

Work under articles 19-21 (Deratification of Ships) has resulted in 68 Certificates for "Deratification" or Deratification "Exemption" being issued, compared with 76 issued last year.

During the year your Port Medical Officer was called out and visited 17 ships at the Docks and River.

During 1939, with the consent of the Borough Council, I was appointed Port Anti-Gas Officer to the River Wear Commissioners' Air Raid Precautions scheme for Docks, Wharves, Quays and Waterside Warehouses. This scheme, which is now fully completed, includes two fully equipped first aid posts. The personnel for manning the scheme is supplied from the officials and workmen employed by the River Wear Commissioners.

Certain duties in connection with Civil Defence are directly concerned with the Port Health Authority, including (1) Provision to be made for the boarding of vessels, whether contaminated by gas or not, immediately on arrival by the Port Medical Officer of Health, if they have on board cases of infectious sickness or of serious illness or accident urgently requiring treatment on shore or if they have come from an infected port; (2) The Supervision of disembarkation and disposal of persons who have become casualties by reason of a gas attack on a ship entering or lying in port; (3) An arrangement with the Dock Authority to provide a suitable site on shore for the reception of contaminated food-stuffs, whether in ships or on shore.

Although the Port is not authorised for the admission of Aliens, during the year, owing to special circumstances, refugees from other allied countries, including seamen, have been medically examined at the request of the Immigration Authorities and certified fit to land.

The work of the Port Health Inspectors has been maintained at a very high standard of efficiency.

I wish to record my thanks for the valuable assistance given by H.M. Collector of Customs and his staff, also the Officials of the River Wear Commissioners, Board of Trade Surveyors, Pilots and Shipping Agents who have so willingly co-operated with the Port Health Authority.

A. S. HEBBLETT WATTE,  
Port Medical Officer of Health.

Health Office,  
Athenaeum Buildings,  
27, Fawcett Street,  
Sunderland.

March, 1942.

W A T E R   S U P P L Y.

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During the past year 8 samples from the water boats were submitted to the Municipal Bacteriologist; the results of the examinations are summarised in the following table:-

1941

Source	Number of samples.	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Water Boats	8	5	3	---	---
Hydrants	---	---	---	---	---
Total.....	8	5	3	---	---

Class 1. A water containing no B. Coli in 100 cc. of water SATISFACTORY  
Class 2. B.Coli test positive in 100 cc. negative in 10 cc.....DOUBTFUL  
Class 3. B.Coli test positive in 10 cc. negative in 1 cc. UNSATISFACTORY  
Class 4. B.Coli test positive in 1 cc. or less .....BAD

ARTICLE 16 (PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS), 1933.

No difficulty has been experienced during the past year in applying the provisions of Article 16, relating to unauthorised persons boarding vessels before they are free from control under the above-mentioned Regulations.

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T A B L E C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of cases during 1941.		No of vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Chicken Pox....	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...
Diphtheria....	...	1	1
Dysentery....	...	...	...
Erysipelas....	...	...	...
Malaria.....	...	...	...
Measles.....	...	1	1
Mumps.....	...	1	1
Pneumonia....	...	1	1
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever..	...	...	...
Smallpox.....	...	...	...
Tuberculosis...	...	1	1
Typhoid Fever..	...	...	...
Typhus Fever...	...	...	...
Total....	...	5	5

T A B L E D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the Voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during 1941.		No of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Chicken Pox....	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...
Diphtheria.....	...	1	1
Dysentery.....	...	...	...
Erysipelas.....	...	...	...
Malaria.....	...	5	2
Measles.....	...	...	...
Pneumonia.....	...	2	2
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever..	...	...	...
Smallpox.....	...	...	...
Tuberculosis...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever..	...	...	...
Typhus Fever...	...	...	...
Total....	...	8	5

OTHER CASES OF SICKNESS, ETC., INVESTIGATED.

In addition to the cases of infectious diseases tabulated, 176 cases of non-infectious sickness, etc., occurring during the voyage or on arrival and during stay in Port, were investigated by the Port Health Inspectors. These included 91 cases of non-infectious sickness, 39 cases of injuries, 30 cases of venereal disease and 16 deaths. Of the deaths reported, 1 was due to alcoholic poisoning, 2 to drowning, 3 to fatal injuries 1 missing and 9 to enemy action,

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VENEREAL DISEASES.

Number of Seamen treated at the V.D. Clinic during 1941.

British	Total	Foreign	Total
Syph. & Soft Chancre.....	1	Syph. & Soft Chancre.....	1
Soft Chancre & Gonorrhoca....	1	Soft Chancre & Gonorrhoca...	...
Syphilis.....	12	Syphilis.....	14
Soft Chancre....	3	Soft Chancre....	1
Syph. & Gono....	1	Syph. & Gono....	5
Gonorrhoca.....	45	Gonorrhoca.....	35
Non-Venereal Disease.....	17	Non-Venereal Disease.....	13
Total.....	80	Total.....	93

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PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930.

No parrots or budgerigars came under observation during the past year.

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DANGEROUS DRUGS (No.3) REGULATIONS, 1923.

No application for a Certificate to procure drugs under the provisions of the above-named Regulations was granted during the past year.

#### MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

426 visits have been paid to vessels in connection with the work of rat destruction during the past year, compared with 428 for the corresponding period of 1940. Rat destruction was carried out on board 32 vessels as against 20 vessels in 1940 resulting in the destruction of 575 rats compared with 340 for the preceding year. 1500 rats were destroyed, principally by trapping, at warehouses, wharves and industrial premises on the river and docks, compared with 695 for 1940, making a total of 2075 for 1941 as compared with 1055 for the previous year.

In addition, 4826 poison baits, compared with 4947 for the preceding year, were laid at various points where trapping was considered futile, the result of which cannot be properly estimated. Two rats have been submitted for bacteriological examination during the past year with negative results.

The total number of visits paid to vessels and premises during 1941, for the purpose of rat destruction was 1869 compared with 1806 for 1940.

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#### RAT PROOFING.

The warehouses at the Docks and on the River continue to be well maintained as regards protection from rats.

It is interesting to note that since the Port of Sunderland was approved by the Ministry of Health, in January, 1929, for the issue of "Deratissation" and Deratissation "Exemption" Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926, 1589 such Certificates have been issued for which fees amounting to the sum of £3187. 4. 6. have been collected.

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RATS DESTROYED DURING 1941.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats .....	575
" examined .....	2
Infected with Plague.....	NIL.

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves  
and Warehouses.

Number of Rats .....	1500
" examined .....	NIL
Infected with Plague .....	NIL

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Vessels from  
Plague infected ports arriving  
in the Port during the year.

Total Number of such vessels arriving	Number of such vessels Fumigated by S.O <sub>2</sub> .	Number of rats killed.	Number of such vessels Fumigated by H.C.N.	Number of rats killed.	Number of such vessels on which Trapping, Poisoning etc. were Employed	Number of such vessels killed.	Number of such vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18	1	6	1	NIL	5	83	11

\* Including Vessels known to have called at Infected Ports during the Voyage.

TABLE H. \*

"Deratisation" Certificates and Deratisation  
"Exemption" Certificates issued during  
the year.

No. of ships	No. of Deratisation Certificates issued.				Total	No. of Derat- ation Ex- emption Certifi- cates issued.	Total Certificates Issued.	
	After fumigation with H.C.N.	After fumigation with Sulphur	After fumigation with H.C.N. & Sulphur	After trapping poisoning etc.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Totals.	68	3	4	2	NIL	9	59	68

\* Applicable only to those ports approved by The Ministry of Health for the issue of "Deratisation" Certificates and Deratisation "Exemption" Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. (Form Port II)

HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE 1.  
CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin, and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British.....	294	187
Other Nations...	20	45

The above table is a classification of the nuisances and defects found to exist on board the vessels inspected during the past year. Of this number 128 or 10.5% were found to have one or more nuisances or sanitary defects, composed for the most part of dirty or verminous quarters, foul w.c's, bilges, peak and ballast tanks, defective port lights, defective stoves and fittings, leaky decks, defective w.c's, doors etc. With the exception of 3 vessels which left the Port before the necessary work was completed, all the nuisances and defects were remedied, suggestive that the work is carried out with a minimum of friction.

## VI. FOOD INSPECTION

The Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations, 1937, The Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, The Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, and the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

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In accordance with the powers contained in these Regulations relating to the inspection of Foods arriving from foreign and home ports, the provisions have been carried out in so far as they concern the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937. With regard to the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations 1925 to 1940, it has not been found necessary to take any action. Samples are regularly taken by the examining Officer of Customs in compliance with the above-named Regulations.

18 visits have been paid to ships, wharves, and warehouses on the River and at the Docks for the purpose of inspecting consignments of foodstuffs.

The following amount of food-stuffs (ships' stores) was examined by request and found to be unfit for human consumption, viz:-

Five barrels of icelandic pickled mutton, (1,000 lbs). This was removed from the ships to the Wear Refiring Company for commercial purposes. No samples of food have been submitted to the Bacteriologist or Public Analyst for examination or analysis during the past year.

### SHELL FISH.

The Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934, came into operation on January 1st, 1935. The Regulations refer to the gathering and selling for human consumption of shell fish which may be infected. There are no layings, private or public, within the jurisdiction of this Authority.

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